

## Letter from Thomas A. Watson to Alexander Graham Bell, June 5, 1900

1000—5.22, '00. FRANK O. WELLINGTON, Established 1884. THOMAS A. WATSON, Treasurer. Fore River Engine Company , STEEL SHIP AND MARINE ENGINE BUILDERS. BUILDERS OF U. S. Torpedo Boat Destroyers “Lawrence” and “Macdonough .” U. S. 3500- Ton Protected Cruiser “Des Moines .” U. S. Steam Light Vessel, No . 72. B.a.A. Long Distance Telephone. T. A. W. Weymouth, Mass., U. S. A., June 5, 1900. Mr. Alexander Graham Bell, Connecticut Ave., Washington, D. C. Dear Mr. Bell:

Mr. Baldwin called and we discussed the matter of his claim thoroughly. He impressed me as an honest man and I have since inquired regarding him, of a man I know well and who knows Mr. Baldwin very well, and I find his reputation as an honest, straightforward man, is unquestioned.

The entry in Mr. Baldwin's engagement book which he placed in my hands was-

“Apr. 5th 1877 Ten men engaged at 5 Exeter Place.”

It appears authentic and as if it had been entered in regular order of business.

I then went to the Athaeneum and consulted the files of the Boston papers, and found in the Herald of April 6th, 1877, an account of your lecture in Providence the night before, from which I extract the following:-

“The music being provided from Boston by Boston Baldwin's Cadet Band of ten pieces.”

“D. W. Reeves of the American Band of Providence played a cornet solo. “Then you'll remember one” which the Providence manager telegraphed was heard all over the hall.”

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This proves Mr. Baldwin's statement to be correct and also confirms by recollection regarding Mr. Reeves. They were both there and we are both right. Rather curious and unusual.

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The Advertiser account is practically the same. You will probably find the cuttings in your famous old scrap book.

Mr. Gower probably made the arrangements with Mr. Baldwin and was mistaken by the latter for you.

It would be very pleasant to hear you again say through the telephone "Mr. Watson, do you understand me now?" My number is 18 or 19 Quincy. My name appears in the telephone directory only under Fore River Engine Company, and I certainly hope you will call me up.

I have four children, two boys and two girls; the youngest 11 and the oldest 17 years.

There is no possibility of my being elected to represent my district, as my ideas on political and sociological subjects are altogether too radical. I have no ambition in that direction.

I hope you will have a pleasant trip to Europe. I have not been there since I met you there in 1882 and the chances of my going again for several years are remote.

My kind regards to Mrs. Bell.

Most cordially yours, Thomas A Watson